

## **SECTION 100.00 – QUALITY ASSURANCE PROGRAM INTRODUCTION**

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The Code of Federal Regulations, Part 637 of Title 23, specifies all state highway agencies, which includes the Idaho Transportation Department, shall develop a quality assurance program. The program will assure that materials and workmanship incorporated into each federal-aid highway construction project on the NHS are in conformity with the requirements of the approved plans and specifications, including approved changes. The program must be approved by the Federal Highway Administration and must contain certain elements identified in the federal regulation.

The ITD Quality Assurance Program has been approved by FHWA and will apply to all projects, whether federal-aid or state funded. The ITD QA program contains the three required elements; namely, the Acceptance Program ([Section 200.00](#)), the Independent Assurance Program ([Section 300.00](#)), and the Project Materials Certification ([Section 400.00](#)).

The ITD Quality Assurance Program defines three levels of evaluation.

### 1. Quality Control (Producer)

Quality control of construction materials is the responsibility of the contractor and is performed during the production of the material and/or at the point of delivery. The test results provide information to substantiate the uniformity of the material as it is produced and the conformity of the product to specification requirements. A useful tool in quality control is the control chart or run chart. It charts each test result on a graph that shows the average, the variation about the average, and any change in the process during production.

### 2. Acceptance (Buyer)

This level of evaluation encompasses all factors that comprise ITD's determination of the quality of the product as specified in the contract requirements. In addition to inspection, these factors include:

- For specification items in the contract using QC results for acceptance, verification sampling and testing must be performed. If QC results meet specified verification result guidelines, then QC results are used for acceptance.
- For the remainder of the specification items in the contract, ITD is responsible for acceptance sampling and testing.

The results of acceptance evaluation are used by ITD to accept, reject, or accept at a reduced rate the material represented by the tests.

### 3. Independent Assurance

Independent assurance is an unbiased and independent evaluation of all the sampling and testing procedures used in the acceptance program. It is a procedure and equipment check and is not directly a part of acceptance or rejection of a product.